

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the specification has been amended for better conformance to the drawing and to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 and 11 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 and 11 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because of lack of reference numerals 55 and 93. In response, the specification has been amended to change reference numeral 93 to 94, as shown in FIG 3. Further, reference numerals 55 and 57 have

been added to FIG 1, in conformance with the specification, such as page 5, lines 14-15. In addition, reference numeral 52 has been added to arrows shown in FIGs 2 and 4, in conformance with the specification, such as page 10, line 14. In addition, reference numeral 165 has been added to FIG 4, in conformance with the specification, such as page 14, line 1. Further, reference numeral 113 has been added to FIG 6, in conformance with the specification as amended, such as page 10, line 33. Replacement sheets including 1-2, 4 and 6 are enclosed. Applicants respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 8-9 for certain informalities. In response, claims 7 and 8 have been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 8-9 is respectfully requested.

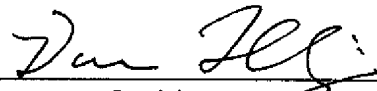
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 6 and 12 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the

features of allowable claims 6 and 12 which have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 7 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 5, 8-9 and 11 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 7 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheets (4 sheets including  
FIGs 1-2, 4 and 6)

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